a) locating the first switch or the second switch at an end terminal of a user for connecting the end terminal to a packet-switching network or a line-switching network, the first switch having access to a line-switching network managed by a network management system, selectively by line-switching or packet switching;

b) establishing a connection through the line-switching network from the first switch to an access point of the packet-switching network;

c) line-switching transferring of data through said connection from the first switch to the access point of the packet-switching network;

d) packeting of the data into data packets if the data do not yet exist as data packets, and packet-switching transferring of the data packets through the packet-switching network from the access point to the second switch;

e) checking repeatedly whether a control signal exists which is triggered by a user of the end terminal or the network management system for changing-over to a line-switching connection to the second switch;

f) establishing the line-switching connection, during an existing transfer, from the first switch to the second switch through the line-switching network with a presence of the control signal, if the line-switching connection is not yet present; and

g) changing-over to a line-switching data transfer during the existing transfer and transferring data over the line switching connection to the second switch.

2. (Twice Amended) A method for transferring data from a first switch to a second switch, comprising:

a) locating the first switch or the second switch at an end terminal of a user connecting the end terminal to a packet-switching network or a line-switching network, the first switch having access

to the line-switching network and the packet switching network, both managed by a network management system, selectively by line-switching or packet switching;

b) packeting the data into data packets in the first switch if the data does not yet exist as data packets;

c) packet-switching transferring of the data packets through the packet-switching network to the second switch;

d) checking repeatedly whether a control signal exists which is triggered by a user of the end terminal or the network management system for transferring to a line-switching connection to the second switch;

e) establishing the line-switching connection, during an existing transfer, through the line-switching network to the second switch with a presence of the control signal, if the line- switching connection is not yet present; and

f) changing-over to a line-switching data transfer during the existing transfer and transferring data over the line switching connection to the second switch.

3. The method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the data packets after changing over to the line-switching data transfer remain as data packets and are transferred as such by line-switching.

4. The method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the data packets after changing to the line-switching data transfer are unpacketed, more particularly headers of the data packets are removed.

5. The method according to claim 1 wherein a same data channel is used to send the data packets to the access point to the packet-switching network and to transfer the data through the line-switching network to the second switch.

6. The method according to claim 1 wherein data packets are transferred to the access point to the packet-switching network through a first data channel and the data are transferred for line-switching to the second switch through a second data channel.

7. The method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the line-switching network is an ISDN network having ISDN switches, the data packets have a TCP/IP format and data channels used for the line-switching data transfer are ISDN B channels.

8. The method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the control signal which triggers a change-over between the line-switching transfer and the packet-switching transfer is produced automatically when demands on a quality of a data transfer such as a time delay or a noise proportion is understepped or exceeded, or produced as a result of a command of the network management system or the end terminal.

9. The method according to claim 1 wherein, with the line-switching data transfer between the first switch and the second switch or between the first switch and the access point to the packet-switching network, the data of several users are multiplexed on one data channel by forming sub-channels of a fixed bandwidth.

10. The method according to claim 9 wherein the data of the user when line-switching is selected, are transferred line-switched with a transfer rate which corresponds to a fraction of the transfer rate of a bandwidth which is available as standard to the user.

11. The method according to claim 9 or 10 wherein the line-switching network is an ISDN network and the data of the user to be transferred are transferred between the first and the second switches

or between the first switch and the access point to the packet-switching network on a data channel with a bandwidth which is only a fraction of a standard bandwidth of 64 kbit/s, more particularly 32, 16, 8, 4, 2 or 1 kbit/s.

12. The method according to claim 11 wherein, in the first switch, only every n-th byte or every n-th bit of an ISDN frame is copied over and forwarded on a data channel to the second switch or to the access point to the packet-switching network, whereby an effective bandwidth of the line-switching data transfer is(64/n) kbit/s.

13. The method according to Claim 1 or 2 wherein, with a data transfer from the first switch changing over from a packet-switching data transfer to the line-switching data transfer,

a) an address information of the data packets are evaluated and classified according to a network topology, and

b) for the data packets whose destination addresses correspond to a same topological area of the network, the second switch is selected which is located in the same topological area.

14. The method according to claim 13 wherein, to classify the data packets according to the network topology, the destination addresses of the data packets are sorted according to geographical areas whereby, for data packets whose destination addresses correspond to a same geographical area, the second switch is selected to be located in this geographical area.

15. The method according to claim 14 wherein, for classifying the data packets according to geography, the destination addresses are compared with destination addresses stored in a data bank which

contains a link between the destination addresses and associated geographical areas.

16. The method according to claim 1, when the data is being transferred using the line-switching data transfer, further comprising the steps of:

a) checking repeatedly whether a second control signal exists which is triggered by the user of the end terminal or the network management system for changing-over to a packet-switching data transfer to the second switch;

b) establishing a second connection through the line-switching network, during the existing transfer, from the first switch to the access point of the packet-switching network with a presence of the second control signal, if the connection to the access point is no longer present;

c) changing-over to a packet-switching data transfer during the existing transfer;

d) line-switching transferring of the data through the connection or the second connection from the first switch to the access point; and

e) packeting of the data into data packets if the data does not yet exist as data packets, and packet-switching transferring of the data packets through the packet switching network from the access point to the second switch.

22. The method according to claim 2 wherein, with the line-switching data transfer between the first switch and the second switch, the data of several users are multiplexed on one data channel by forming sub-channels of a fixed bandwidth.

23. The method according to claim 22 wherein the data of the user when line-switching is selected, are transferred line-switched

with a transfer rate which corresponds to a fraction of the transfer rate of a bandwidth which is available as standard to the user.

24. The method according to claim 22 or 23 wherein the line-switching network is an ISDN network and the data of the user to be transferred are transferred between the first and the second switches on a data channel with a bandwidth which is only a fraction of a standard bandwidth of 64 kbit/s, more particularly 32, 16, 8, 4, 2 or 1 kbit/s.

25. The method according to claim 24 wherein, in the first switch, only every n-th byte or every n-th bit of an ISDN frame is copied over and forwarded on a data channel to the second switch, whereby an effective bandwidth of the line-switching data transfer is (64/n) kbit/s.

26. The method according to claim 2, when the data is being transferred using the line-switching data transfer, further comprising the steps of:

a) checking repeatedly whether a second control signal exists which is triggered by the user of the end terminal or the network management system for changing-over to a packet-switching data transfer to the second switch;

b) changing-over to a packet-switching data transfer during the existing transfer with a presence of the second control signal; and

c) packeting the data into data packets in the first switch if the data does not yet exist as data packets, and packet-switching transferring of the data packets through the packet-switching network to the second switch.

Please add new Claim 32 to read as follows: